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USDA/FSIS Hearing Clerk
300 12th St. SW, Rm 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250-3700
Docket No. 98-045N

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that the Presidents' Inter-Agency Council on Food Safety is analyzing how to improve food safety and is requesting public input.

Food safety hazards, first and foremost, need to be addressed at the source, with mandatory safeguards at the animal production stage. These include more humane and hygienic treatment and conditions for farm animals. (Currently, problems include overcrowding animals, subjecting them to stressful procedures and conditions, feeding them chicken litter and feces, rendering diseased animals into animal feed, excessive use of antibiotics and other drugs, and inhumane and unhygienic transport and slaughter.) Short of this, any food safety plan is doomed to fail.

Regulatory authority at the production stage must be expanded, with adequate funding actively sought.

Sincerely,

Stacy Swartz